



Mission Possible
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

MEDITATION

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others.”

– H. Jackson Brown

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

P: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Reflection on “Beach Spring”

arr. Ryan Jones

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness of God’s love.

L: We have come to praise God, our faithful God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

L: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

All: Who chooses you and me to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

Last page

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us. But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us.

All: We confess that at times we have been reluctant to speak out in naming the injustices we and declaring God’s vision. We confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God’s people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God’s dream of

justice and joy. Remind me, God that you have made me for your service. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your Way of compassion and grace. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Christina Williams

L: Family of faith, God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God, forgiveness is ours. That promise comes true now. Know that in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

All: God is here. God is working among us. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

Black 303

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

ANTHEM

“Guidance” by Lani Smith

Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING | Jeremiah 1:4-10

David Kayajan

GOSPEL READING | Matthew 28:16-20

Linda Thomas, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT READING | Acts 13:44-51

Rev. Christina Williams

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Mission Possible”

Rev. Christina Williams

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Bruce Prewer, adapted)*

I believe in a God who comes to seek the lost and calls us into a new way. I believe in Jesus Christ who gives us the power to become the children of the living God in word and deed. I believe in the Spirit in whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship. I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future. Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

Black 531

UNISON PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, we are all invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. All: Sung Amen (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

instrumental

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, in our giving, hear our heartfelt gratitude for all that you are and all that we have. Bless these gifts for your mission in the world and bless the other gifts we bring to your mission. Open our eyes to all the big and small ways you are calling us to participate and serve. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"This Little Light of Mine"

Black 524

BENEDICTION & SUNG BENEDICTION

Go forth to share the community, fellowship, and friendship you find here.
Go forth to serve a world longing for peace and equity.
Go forth as a living witness of God's love.
Go forth to share the fears and the tears, the laughter and the hope.
Go forth knowing God is with you,
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Amazing Grace” (My Chains Are Gone) *arr. Melody Bober*

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

Many thanks to all those who enrich our morning together!

Jennifer Rossiter, Guest Pianist

Members of the Chancel Choir

Linda Thomas, Deacon

Faith Duffy, Tech Deacon

David Kayajan, Lay Reader

Katie Weldon, hospitality

Music covered One License # A-728849

GATHERING

Rejoice in the Lord Always 650

The musical score is written for piano and voice in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Re-joyce in the Lord al - ways, a - gain I say, re-joyce! Re - joyce in the Lord al - ways, a - gain I say, re-joyce! Re-joyce! Re-joyce! A - gain I say, re-joyce! Re-joyce! Re-joyce! A - gain I say, re-joyce!" The score is marked with Roman numerals I, II, III, and IV at the beginning of each system. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.